

Senators Seek to Restore School Tax Limits

By JAMES K. WOODWORTH
SACRAMENTO — (CNS) — The public's inalienable right to determine the future of education in local districts, and its impact on their pocketbooks, may be reassured if a proposal by Senator John G. Schmitz, R-Orange, gains passage in the 1969 legislative session.

Jesse Unruh, which would allow all school districts in the state to increase their school tax rates, beginning July 1, 1971, with out going to the people in the local district for approval of such an increase.

Schmitz introduced the bill and a resolution on the opening day and called his proposal "among the most important items in my 1969 legislative program."

Schmitz has obtained the signatures of 23 other senators, including seven Democrats, as co-authors. Thus a majority of the senate is on record in favor of the repeal measure.

With the new, but slim, Republican majority in the assembly, it may be possible for the Schmitz measure to gain assembly approval, but, undoubtedly, there will be a strong move by Unruh's forces to retain the original bill and kill the repeal.

Governor Ronald Reagan is reported to be in support of the repeal measure.

As some legislative reviewers like to put it, to grant school officials the right to raise taxes as much as they wish, without the restraint of voter approval, is like turning a child loose in a candy store.

Comment and Opinion

C-2 PRESS-HERALD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1969

These Taxing Times

This is an awesome time of the year. It is a time when every citizen has to be concerned for the support of the government "of, by and for the people."

For it is the time that the working citizen must delve into his hard earned savings and come up with enough cash to assure that the rights of all people to demonstrate and disrupt are not violated next year.

It is also the time for looking ahead at future budgets which in turn promise a bigger tax bite in the years to come.

In coming weeks budgets on all levels will be announced and they will have one thing in common—they will be record-setting.

And with more taxes staring you in the face from every nook and corner of government, there will be the April 1 election ballots with bond proposals and tax overrides asking voter's permission to set even higher tax rates.

We again think back to November, 1968, when state voters approved Proposition 1A. We remember the opposition by all elected officials and the threats of "total disaster" if Proposition 9 were successful.

We also remember the \$70 per vote bribe offered as a "property tax relief."

But now the real affects of 1A are being felt. County leaders are talking of the tremendous expense of paying the rebate and how the cost of 1A will affect future county budgets.

The realities of 1A will also come into the limelight during 1969 when it is revealed that tax ceilings, which now must be approved by voters, will be removed and set by governmental bodies by their simple majority vote.

The tax override election, which gives the people a voice in spending of public funds, will become a thing of the past in mid 1971. Government will determine tax ceilings as spelled out by Proposition 1A.

We just wonder where our governmental officials were when these explanations to their "property tax relief" program were not spelled out in 1968.

They said Proposition 9 would cause chaos in the schools—and even in failure, it apparently did.

WILLIAM HOGAN

A Peek Ahead Into Book World and Its Denizens

In the New Year: A Honduran epigrammatist will receive the Noble Prize for Literature and will be published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., for the first time in English. In North America, the Honduran will remain as unread as Haldor Laxness, the Icelandic Nobel literary laureate of 1955.

Seven daily book columnists will promptly be reminded that Joseph Conrad never won a Nobel Prize, nor did Franz Kafka, Mark Twain, Theodore Dreiser, Robert Frost — but Pearl S. Buck did.

A variety of undistinguished first novelists and poets will be publicized as the most exciting talents to emerge since Horstense Callisher, John Updike, Theodore Roethke, Terry Southern, John Barth, and Howard Nemerov.

A slight work of fiction by a sensitive former Alabama farm hand and dropout from the creative writing program at Azeala State Teachers College at Mobile, will be advertised as the most moving performance by a Southern writer since the appearance of "Other Voices, Other Rooms."

and three days later, when they are reviewed, will further complain that Book World

Browsing Through the World of Books liked them, so why didn't the year, each time for the worse.

The new York Times Book Review will redesign its type local critics?

Barney Rossett of Grove Press and Maurice Girodias of Olympia Press will be totally frustrated upon discovering that every perversion known to Kraft-Ebing has already been published — there is absolutely nothing more to say about it. Girodias thereupon will issue an edition, illustrated with color photographs, of the collected works of the Marquis de Sade, and Rossett a \$35 edition of Currier & Ives, printed in Milan, in which every figure, including the horses, are naked.

Novels by three 25-year-olds will be advertised as the most inventive war stories since "Catch-22."

Twelve American eye-witnesses will submit manuscripts on what happened the day the Russians marched into Prague, but only that by Shirley Temple Black, adapted from her McCall's reportage, will be published.

His publishers will announce that Jim Bishop is working on a minute-by-minute account of



ROYCE BRIER

Philippines Want Chance To Go It Alone in World

Carlos P. Romulo, to Americans the most distinguished Filipino of the period, has said in effect that it is best the United States and the Philippines sever their special relations.

As he has just become foreign secretary for the second

time since Philippine independence, his view has great weight in the western Pacific. His task is said to be to implement a new foreign policy of President Marcos.

Romulo's argument is that the Philippines must determine

their international relations, not by sentiment or tradition, as the dispatch phrases it, but by political realities and the needs of Philippine sovereignty.

To this end, Mr. Romulo is expected to approach the new Administration in Washington with a proposal for reducing the current 25-year tenure of American bases in the islands, and possible abandonment of the military alliance between his country and the United States.

He is described as taking a critical position on the present and future value of the alliance, and as calling the future American defense of the Philippines "dubious." He feels his country should not look to mutual security agreements with its Asian neighbors.

Notes on the Margins
On Feb. 14, Viking will publish Fred Warshofsky's "The New Age of Exploration," first in a series of books under the general title "The 21st Century." These will interpret for the layman the latest and most significant developments in science and technology today.

The author is science editor of the television series "The 21st Century" which has been carried by the CBS television network for the past three years.

Press-Herald

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Moreover, there is some

HERB CAEN SAYS:

One Glance Back Enough For the Year That Was

Frankly, I thought it would never end — that year that all too often seemed like a practical joke in the worst possible taste. Perhaps this sums it up as well or badly as anything: In the agonized aftermath of Robert F. Kennedy's assassination, Mayor Alioto asked all San Franciscans to turn in their guns — and one man, en route to a police station to do just that, was arrested on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. That's the kind of year 1968 was.

It started out with a newspaper strike here and went downhill from there ("The hardest part of the strike," I am a member of George Lemont, "was every day having to put fresh diapers on the canary"). The Hashbury fell apart to the point where Richard Brautigan could describe it as "America's only teen-age slum." At the Republican convention in Miami, a very pregnant girl was carrying a sign reading "Nixon's the One!" and big changes in Vietnam were pre-announced by the returning correspondent who told me: "Westmoreland is a Boy Scout and Vietnam is no place for Boy Scouts." And Chief Tom Cahill, opposing gun restrictions on his cops, offered memorably: "I think you will find we have killed fewer people than you would expect if we had been less careful."

The sartorial smash of the year was the turtle-neck: most men a bou-town looked as though they were suffering from whiplash. Tiny Tim, another smash, revealed the secret of his hairdo: "I shampoo it with beer and set it with pretzels." We continued to be relatively smog-free; a Los Angeleno arriving at S.F. Airport on

a particularly clear morning said "I get very nervous breathing air I can't see" — a remark quoted 'round the world. H. L. Hunt's son proposed "a sky-high Freedom Torch for Alcatraz," which

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

Sally Norris ailed as a splendid idea: "How else are we going to find out how high the sky is?" (Others suggested something more appropriate to the Alioto regime: a Leaning Tower of Pizza). And at Vanessi's, a builder of ugly high-rises was heard to grumble: "Sometimes I think this save-the-view business is being run into the ground," and who should know better?

Inconceivably, Pope Paul banned the Pill, giving birth to a rash of "Recall Paul" bumper strips. (A Reagan recall drive failed despite a campaign that included stickers reading "Press Here for a Short Speech by Governor Reagan" on hot-air hand dryer in lavatories.) In a Montgy. St. office, George Akins heard a girl holler "Awright, who put the Pill in the Xerox — it ain't reproducing!" At Grace Cathedral, a secretary was fired for inserting as a sermon topic in the weekly newsletter: "Fly to Sodom and Pay Later!" Jo Anne Worley had an all-too-familiar San Francisco problem: "All the men I know are either married or want to do my hair." And Carl Spann barked the bitch-squelcher of the year: "May the Bird of Paradise neutralize your Pill!"

My generation is singularly blessed. At a party on this oasis, at the height of the great race into space, I heard myself

asking someone casually: "Are they in lunar orbit yet?" I couldn't believe my own ears. Imagine having lived long enough to ask CASUALLY: "Are they in lunar orbit yet?" ... My generation began amid the clip-clop of horses' hooves. The iceman and the milkman came and we ran outside to stroke the horses' flanks (and then steal a silver of ice). Every house in our neighborhood had a beautiful ornate hitching post out front, with a horse's head and a big ring we could cling against the metal. Alongside the post were two steps of cement, so you could climb into the high carriages. It was a black day when city crews came along to saw off the hitching posts and sledge-hammer the steps into rubble: the automobile was here to stay. The kaleidoscopic memories of our generation: the boys home from World War I and marching up K St., Lucky Lindy flashing by on the back of a touring car, Sousa marches playing scratchily on the wind-up phonograph, static on the Atwater Kent radio ... And now I was standing there, drink in hand, and asking, "are they in lunar orbit yet?" No wonder we're all slightly daft.

Newsmen to jailer at the Hall of Justice: "How's business?" Jailer: "Well, we're getting a lot of junky Good Samaritans." Newsmen: "Parme!" Jailer: "You know, guys you get busted on purpose so they can smuggle pot to their buddies who're locked up." Come fly with me ... Gracie Allen Bundsen, in the wake of the astronauts: "When we actually DO land on the moon, I sure hope we try it when it's full and not one of those dinky little crescents"

SACRAMENTO REPORT

People Still Want Tough Pornography Laws -- Dills

By RALPH C. DILLS
Senator, 32nd District

Pornography, again, will be a prime subject of debate during the 1969 legislative session.

In spite of the defeat of similar measures in the past two sessions, two bills designed to strengthen and add to California's laws against obscene material were introduced in the state Senate on Jan. 9.

The introduction of these measures is due principally to the demands of our constituents that the state's laws regarding pornography are, at the very least, more clearly defined.

It is no secret that the smut industry in California is going

as strong if not stronger today as ever. More obscene pornographic material is disseminated within and from the Golden State than any other in the Nation. And the weakness would seem to lie with our vague state laws dealing with the subject.

The bills introduced recently are SB 62 and 63. The first of these defines "harmful matter" and makes a person who knowingly sends, or causes to be sent, exhibits, or offers to distribute such material to a person under 18 years of age, guilty of a misdemeanor.

This bill also adds some responsibility on the minor child as it incorporates a provision that if the minor falsifies his age to obtain the harmful matter, he is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The next bill refers to "obscene matter," and provides a test for judging "the predominant appeal to prurient interest." It provides that where circumstances indicate the matter is commercially exploited for the sake of prurient interest, such evidence can justify a conclusion that the matter is without redeeming social importance.

Further, the measure makes certain violations a felony, rather than a misdemeanor, when there have been prior convictions of specified offenses.

The same measure recasts provisions punishing the act of

advertising or otherwise promoting obscene matter, and makes such provisions applicable to exhibiting, as well as distributing, obscene matter.

It is hoped that these two bills will at least give impetus to the movement to stop the heavy traffic in pornographic material in and out of California. Our present laws have not given the law enforcement agencies a great deal to work with, and the Supreme Court has been willing to go no further than our present liberal laws read. These laws assert that such material, however lacking in social value, is an expression of freedom of speech and press.

It is expected that these two bills will receive the same scrutiny and lively debate as did the measures that failed in previous sessions. The Governor and the Attorney General, plus the District Attorneys' association, the California Peace Officers' association, and the statewide organization "Law Enforcement and Its Needs" will likely support the bills.

It is also expected that, as in the past, the American Civil Liberties Union and the California Library Association will oppose the measures.

Whatever the outcome during the 1969 legislative year, it is assured that the people of California will be given the opportunity to speak — both pro and con — on the very basic questions of freedom of speech and press.

Morning Report

Considering that we got George Washington for \$25,000 a year, some people are wondering if Richard Nixon is worth \$200,000 for holding down the same job.

As a matter of fact, at 200 grand, the President would cost each of us much less than the taxpayers of that earlier day. We have a bigger outfit going these days. Mr. Washington's salary nicked each person about 6/16th of a cent a year while the new Presidential salary would only nudge each of us for a tenth of a cent.

What that means is that if Nixon stays in the White House for full eight years, each of us is still out less than a penny. Even a Democrat would have to admit that's a bargain—in these days of inflation. Where can you buy a President for less?

Abe Mellinkoff